undertaken by Commerce and Industry Ministries in consultation with other ministries. The Government has also taken a series of measures for liberalisation of industrial licensing policies and introduction of new technologies with a view to increase the international competitiveness of domestic industry. Decision has also been taken to extend the cash compensatory scheme beyond 31-3-86 and provide for compensation to industry for the cascading effect of domestic taxes. Additionally, alloys and other types of steels have been included in the International Price Reimbursement Scheme to provide steel materials at international price for export production. The Import-Export Passbook scheme has been introduced with effect from 1-1-86 for manufacturer-exporters with a view to provide easy access to duty free imports for export production.

Raids to unearth Black Money

907. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:
SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:
SHRI BHAGAT RAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of raids conducted by the various agencies and authorities to unearth black money during the past three months; and

(b) what are the details of black money including foreign exchange, gold jewellery and incriminating documents seized during these raids?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) During the last three months *i.e.* November, 1985 to January, 1986 Income-tax Department conducted 1777 searches and seized, *prima-facie*, unaccounted assets worth Rs. 16.64 crores approximately including cash of Rs. 3.79 crores and jewellery worth Rs. 8.92 crores approximately apart from a large number of incriminating documents.

The Enforcement Directorate conducted 1041 searches during the same period and seized foreign currency equivalent to Indian Rs. 67.58 lakhs.

Recovery of Excise Duty from Hindustan Aluminium Company Limited

908. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have inquired into the working of Hindustan Aluminium Company Limited, Mirzapur;

(b) whether this Company has been found under invoicing, evading payment of excise duty, sales tax and income tax and that more than Rs. 400 crores have been outstanding against the company towards excise duty; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken against the company for the recovery of this amount which has been outstanding since long?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Visit of MMTC Executives to Japan

909. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some top executives of the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation visited Japan during the

month of January, 1986; if so, what are the names of the members of the delegation; and

(b) what was the object of their visit and what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does no arise.

Acceptance of huge commissions by army officers

910. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether involvement of some army officers, retired and serving, in the acceptance of huge commission in the purchases of defence equipment from abroad has recently come to the notice of Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the nature of defence purchases, the amount involved and the action taken by Government against the officials found involved in the deals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) This Ministry has no information.

(b) Does not arise.

Cases relating to evasion of customs duties

911. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the cases which came to light during 1985 involving huge amounts of evasion of customs duties;

(b) what is the estimated loss of revenue to the Exchequer on account of those cases;

(c) whether there is a proposal to set up a separate body to deal expeditiously with the customs cases; and

(d) if so, what are the details of its constitution and by when it will come into existence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to set up a Tribunal under Article 323B of the Constitution for more expeditious settlement of Customs and Central Excise matters, including valuation disputes. The details of its constitution and the date from which it will come into existence are yet to be finalised.

Shortage of small coins

912. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government in recent weeks to ease the shortage of small coins; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have taken/propose to take the following steps:—

(1) The existing Mints are being worked to their full capacity by increasing the number of working hours in all the three mints coupled with the operation of an incentive scheme for obtaining higher production.